

## YELLOWSTONE ELK POACHER SENTENCED

The Utah man who pleaded guilty to the crime of poaching the seven-by-eight point bull elk will pay \$30,000 in various fines and serve eight months in prison, four of which may be under home confinement.

Chad S. Beus, 24, of Salt Lake City gave Shane D. Shavers \$5,000 to keep quiet about the crime. It was this act that landed Beus with the jail sentence.

"We'll take what we can get," said Park Chief Ranger Dan Sholly. "It really is unfortunate that the outrageous act of killing this animal was not responsible for most of his sentence."

Along with the fines and prison time Beus will not be able to own or carry any firearms since he was convicted of a felony. This means that even after Beus has completed his probation, he would only be able to bowhunt.

The Boone and Crockett Club contributed \$1,000 to the reward fund. It was pledges like these from conservation and hunting organizations across the country that were instrumental in solving the case.

## BROTHERS CHANGE DREAMS FOR BOTTOMLAND FARM

Marshall, Mo. -- Two years ago, Bryce and Brad Evans were about to fulfill a dream. After years of planning, they had found just the right piece of land - 1,450 acres of rich agricultural property near New Fankfort in Salin County. When they signed the purchase papers, they could see the day when their farm would be a very productive row-crop operation. Then the Great Flood of '93 swept down the Missouri River valley. They didn't see most of their land again for three months.

When their land emerged from the deluge it was a sorry sight. The fertile land was pockmarked with "blue holes" scoured out by the flood, and sand blanketed hundreds of acres.

"After the flood everyone was in shock," recalls Bryce. "When the water went down, we looked at the broken levees, the scour holes and all that sand and considered whether we could make our land productive again without it breaking us."

Like hundreds of other landowners, the Evans brothers explored government flood-relief programs to help with their plight. They eventually decided to enroll their land in the federal Emergency Wetland Reserve Program

(EWRP). They qualified to receive \$700 per acre in return for agreeing never to farm the land again. EWRP also provided financial aid in turning the land to other uses, such as growing trees.

Under EWRP, the Evans brothers retained title to their land, and could have sold it. But instead of letting go of their land and the dream it represented, they changed their vision and found another dream.

"We went to Rob Leonard (wildlife management biologist at Grand Pass Conservation Area a few miles upstream) and told him we wanted to manage our land for wildlife," says Brad. "We said, 'Give us a plan for making this the best we can for wildlife --the very best.'"

A year later, two years after the demise of their first dream, the Evans brothers began putting their new dream into action. Their first step is planting 247,400 trees supplied by the Missouri Department of Conservation on 850 acres of bottom land.

The Evans brothers say they are as excited about creating wildlife habitat now as they were about growing crops two years ago. Bryce notes that before levee building and river channelization began in the 1930s, their bottom had only about 300 acres of land. The rest was an island and swamp. This area and Dalton Bottoms across the river boasted some of the best waterfowl hunting in the state. The brothers say they plan to work at restoring that historic legacy by using existing blue holes and building earthworks wetlands.

Brad says he looks forward to the short-term reward of seeing deer and turkeys on their land. "I've never seen a trophy deer in Missouri," he says. "In three years, we will have some here."

-MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## ELK HERD GROWS, EXPANDS PRIMARY RANGE

Pennsylvania's elk herd continues to show a trend towards population growth and range expansion according to a survey conducted in early February.

Rawley Cogan, a Pennsylvania Game Commission wildlife biologist, has projected the elk population at 254 animals. That figure represents the highest number of elk in Pennsylvania any time this century.

Just 20 years ago the state's elk herd, found in Elk and Cameron counties, numbered as few as 38 animals. The population climbed to 100 elk in 1979 and has shown steady growth since 1988.

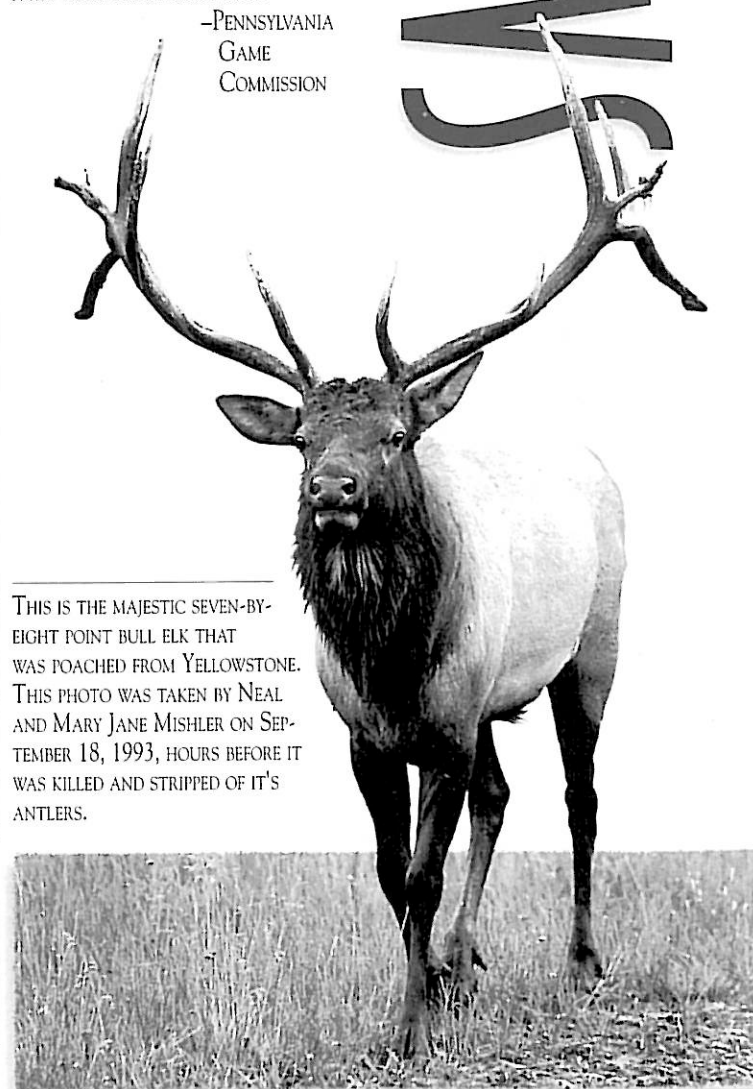
The most recent survey showing 254 elk is an increase of 30 animals in the past year. The breakdown of the herd by sex and age class is 46 branch-antlered bulls; 26 spike bulls; 143 cows; and 39 calves.

"We know that the count of 143 cows includes a number of calves," said Cogan. "We experienced some pretty rough weather conditions on the two days the survey was flown. It's fairly easy to incorrectly identify a calf as a cow when aircraft can't fly at very low altitudes. We know from research we're getting 60 to 65 percent calf recruitment into the population on an annual basis."

The Game Commission's elk management plan is designed to maintain a self-sustaining herd on state game and forest lands. The goal is to minimize impacts on private properties.

Elk currently roaming Pennsylvania's north central mountains are descendants of 24 released in Cameron County in 1915 and 10 released in Elk County between 1924 and 1926. A total of 177 elk were released in seven counties of the state from 1913 to 1926. Most came from Yellowstone Park.

-PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION



THIS IS THE MAJESTIC SEVEN-BY-EIGHT POINT BULL ELK THAT WAS POACHED FROM YELLOWSTONE. THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN BY NEAL AND MARY JANE MISHLER ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1993, HOURS BEFORE IT WAS KILLED AND STRIPPED OF IT'S ANTLERS.

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